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March 21, 2017

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization
Notice of Forbearance from Lifeline BIAS Requirements
WC Docket No. 11-42**

Pursuant to the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ and the *BIAS Forbearance Public Notice*,² as authorized representatives of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("PTC"), we hereby submit this Notice of Forbearance from Lifeline broadband internet access service ("BIAS") requirements in certain portions of PTC's Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") service area.

PTC is a rural incumbent local exchange carrier that has elected to receive support under the Alternative Connect America Cost Model ("A-CAM"). PTC now provides notice that it is availing itself of the Commission's forbearance relief for those census blocks within its ETC service area that are not funded by A-CAM. In support of this notice, PTC provides the following information:

1. *Carrier Name*: Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2. *ETC Designation Information*:
 - a. *Designation Order*: In the Matter of Alltel Oklahoma, Inc. et al. for Designation as Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support Pursuant to

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016)* ("Lifeline Modernization Order").

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 11-42, DA 16-1316 (WCB. rel. November 22, 2016)* ("BIAS Forbearance Public Notice").

Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Cause PUD No. 970000522, Order No. 418436 (Okla. Corp. Comm'n, Dec. 3, 1997).

- b. *Designating Authority*: Oklahoma Corporation Commission.
 - c. *Type of Designation*: High-cost and Low-Income (not Lifeline-only).
 - d. *Date of ETC Designation*: December 3, 1997.
3. *Areas Where PTC Elects Forbearance*: Attached as Appendix A is an Excel spreadsheet containing a list of census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, representing the areas in which PTC is electing forbearance.
4. *Date and Reason for Change*: PTC received its first A-CAM payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, PTC no longer receives high-cost support in the census blocks unfunded by A-CAM and does not have high-cost broadband obligations in those areas. PTC is eligible for forbearance in those census blocks and timely files this notice within 30 days of the qualifying change.³ In the census blocks that are funded by A-CAM, PTC is subject to broadband Lifeline obligations only to the extent it commercially offers qualifying broadband pursuant to its high-cost broadband obligations.⁴

Notwithstanding this forbearance filing and in accordance with the *Lifeline Modernization Order*, PTC reserves the right to offer and receive reimbursement for providing Lifeline-supported BIAS to eligible subscribers.⁵

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³ See *Lifeline Modernization Order*, supra, 31 FCC Rcd at 3974, 4074 (¶¶ 35, 311).

⁴ See *id.* at 4074 (¶ 311).

⁵ See *BIAS Forbearance Public Notice*, supra, at p. 2, *Lifeline Modernization Order*, supra, 31 FCC Rcd at 4075 (¶ 312).

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Please contact the undersigned if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Chernoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name being more prominent.

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